

# JOINT BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (JBDA)



**Figure 1. Imagery of a target before and after being engaged by a B-52**

Joint Battle Damage Assessment (JBDA) is a 4-year Joint Test and Evaluation (JT&E) chartered in August 2000 by the Director of Strategic and Tactical Systems in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) to study and enhance the joint force battle damage assessment (BDA) process. In November 2002, the JT&E Program moved under the control of the Deputy Director, Systems and Test Resources, in the Operational Test and Evaluation Directorate of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

## Background Information

During Operation DESERT STORM, the joint force BDA requirements exceeded the available intelligence collection capabilities. The Department of Defense (DoD) Final Report to Congress, Conduct of the Persian Gulf War stated, “The BDA process was difficult, especially for re-strike decisions.” The report recommended the establishment of effective BDA doctrine and organization, and it identified a critical need to develop a BDA process for maneuver forces. The situation was exacerbated by a lack of trained BDA analysts.

Operations DESERT FOX and ALLIED FORCE revealed that, while some advances had been made in BDA since Operation DESERT STORM, the need remained for further improvement. The training for BDA analysts was still lacking, and the processes and procedures for conducting both fixed and mobile target BDA needed revisions to promote more timely and accurate BDA to meet the commander's decision cycle.

In June 1999, the Deputy Director, Test and Evaluation, under the Director, Test, Systems Engineering and Evaluation, in the OSD, initiated the JBDA Joint Feasibility Study to address these recurring shortcomings. The US Army was designated as the lead Service and the US Army Intelligence Center and School is the sponsoring command.



**Figure 2. Pre-and post-strike imagery battle damage assessment**

### **Test and Evaluation Activity**

During fiscal year 2003, JBDA established the baseline joint BDA process by analyzing the data and anecdotal observations gathered during US Forces Korea's exercise Ulchi Focus Lens 2002 (UFL 02). JBDA completed the baseline data analysis and then developed and fielded doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLP-F) test products that address the problems identified in the baseline BDA process. JBDA evaluated the DOTMLP-F test products in exercise UFL 03. During 2004, JBDA will analyze this data and issue the final joint test report.

During Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, JBDA deployed observers to the Headquarters, US Central Command, in Tampa, Florida, and the NMJIC at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, to observe the as-is BDA process. JBDA rotated observers after several weeks to ensure continued presence at both locations throughout the sustained operations. These observations served to reinforce the findings of the baseline joint BDA process and focus the development of DOTMLP-F products for deployment with U.S. Forces, Korea.

From January to July 2003, JBDA also deployed Major Anne Conely, USAF, to the Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (JTF-HOA) as an intelligence officer in sustained operations to promote political stability in the region and to deny safe-haven to terrorists. Major Conely brought back valuable insight on BDA in counter-terrorist operations.



**Figure 3: Participants in the contingency tests included: (Left to Right) COL Diehl (JBDA Joint Test Director), Lt Col Courchene, LTC Newport, MAJ Boylan, and Maj Conely**

### **Test and Evaluation Assessment**

The JBDA JT&E meets the stated purposes of the OSD JT&E Program, and the Services and combatant commands continue to provide their support.